

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of tracking the location of capitalized fixed assets for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes, said method comprising the steps of:

5 (1) detecting when a capitalized fix asset is involved in a transaction;

(2) responsive to such a detection in step (1), running data for said asset through a plurality of queries, each query designed to determine if said asset meets a set of criteria indicative of a category of how a location of said asset may be determined;

10 (3) if, in step (2), said asset meets said set of criteria corresponding to one of said queries, running data corresponding to said asset through an audit customized to said corresponding category to determine a location of said asset;

(4) if, in step (3) a location is determined, assigning said determined location to said asset for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes;

15 (5) if, in step (3), a location is not determined issuing an error notification; and

(6) if, in step (2), if said data for said asset does not meet said criteria of any of queries, issuing an error notification.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein, in step (2), each of said sets of criteria comprises at least one criterion to which said data for said asset must match.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein, in step (2), said data for said asset is run through said plurality of queries hierarchically, wherein, when said asset meets said set of criteria of a particular query, said asset data is not run through any queries ordered lower in said hierarchy.

5 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said transaction comprises a transfer or capitalization.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said error notification issued in step (5) indicates that the asset met said set of criteria corresponding to one of said categories, but was not assigned a location.

10 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said error notification issued in step (5) further indicates which of said at least one criterion caused said error.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said error notification issued in step (6) indicates that said asset data did not meet said criteria corresponding to any category.

15 8. A computer readable product embodied on computer readable media readable by a computing device for tracking the location of capitalized fixed assets for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes, said product comprising computer executable instructions for:

(1) interfacing with external software to become aware of when a capitalized fixed asset is involved in a transaction;

(2) responsive to such a detection in step (1), accessing data for said asset and running said data through a plurality of queries, each query designed to determine if said asset meets a set of criteria indicative of a category of how a location of said asset may be determined;

(3) if, in step (2), said asset meets said set of criteria corresponding to one of said queries, running data corresponding to said asset through an audit customized to said corresponding category to determine a location of said asset;

(4) if, in step (3) a location is determined, assigning said determined location to said asset for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes;

(5) if, in step (3), a location is not determined issuing an error notification; and

(6) if, in step (2), if said data for said asset does not meet said criteria of any of queries, issuing an error notification.

9. The computer readable product of claim 8 wherein instruction (4) further comprises instructions for transmitting said determined location to said external software.

10. The computer readable product of claim 8 wherein, in instruction (2), each of said queries comprises at least one criterion to which said data for said asset must match.

11. The computer readable product of claim 10 wherein, in instruction (2), said data for said asset is run through said plurality of queries hierarchically, wherein, when said asset meets set of criteria of a particular query, said asset data is not run through any queries ordered lower in said hierarchy.

5 12. The computer readable product of claim 11 wherein said transaction comprises a transfer or capitalization.

13. The computer readable product of claim 11 wherein said error notification issued by instruction (5) indicates that the asset met said set of criteria corresponding to one of said categories, but was not assigned a location.

10 14. The computer readable product of claim 13 wherein said error notification issued by instruction (5) further indicates which of said at least one criterion caused said error.

15 15. The computer readable product of claim 13 wherein said error notification issued by instruction (6) indicates that said asset did not meet said criteria corresponding to any category.

16. The computer readable product of claim 8 wherein instruction (1) comprises detecting a call from said external software.

17. The computer readable product of claim 8 wherein instruction (1) comprises monitoring said external software to detect a transaction involving an asset.

18. The computer readable product of claim 8 wherein instruction (3) comprises accessing said data corresponding to said asset from at least one of a database and a transaction record received from said external software.

19. A computer system having at least one memory for storing data and at least one central processing unit for executing instructions, said memory storing at least one database containing data about a plurality of capitalized fixed assets, said central processing unit adapted to track the location of capitalized fixed assets for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes, said computer system comprising means for recording transactions relating to capitalized fixed assets, said system further comprising:

means for interfacing with external software to become aware of when a capitalized fixed asset is involved in a transaction;

means responsive to said detection for accessing data for said asset and running said data through a plurality of queries, each query designed to determine if said asset meets a set of criteria indicative of a category of how a location of said asset may be determined;

means for running data corresponding to said asset through an audit customized to said corresponding category to determine a location of said asset, if said asset meets said set of criteria corresponding to one of said queries;

means for assigning said determined location to said asset for tax and/or insurance reporting purposes and transmitting said determined location to said controller software, if a location is determined;

means for issuing an error notification, if a location is not determined; and

means for issuing an error notification an asset type is not determined for said asset.

20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein each of said queries comprises at least one criterion to which said data for said asset must match.

21. The computer system of claim 20 wherein said data for said asset is run through said plurality of queries hierarchically, wherein, when said asset meets set of criteria of a particular query, said asset data is not run through any queries ordered lower in said hierarchy.